

New Projects and Programs

- Mayor Kirk Caldwell led a press conference on Dec. 12 to unveil the new Kumuwai residences for kūpuna located in McCully–Mō'ili'ili. The project was developed by the city's [Department of Land Management](#) and features 30 studio units (29 units and 1 resident manager unit), laundry facility and office for support services for chronically homeless kūpuna, those considered at-risk of falling into homelessness, and those who earn 50% of area median income (AMI) or below. A total of 60 housing vouchers are being provided to the city through the state's 'Ohana Zone funding. The Kumuwai residences will be utilizing 20 of these vouchers, with the remaining 40 already designated to specific sites (to be announced later).
- The city's new [HONU: Mobile Homeless Outreach and Navigation for Unsheltered Persons](#) has been launched! Another state 'Ohana Zone funded project, the unveiling of HONU was held on Dec. 11 with opening at Waipahu Cultural Garden on Dec. 13.
 - On Dec. 17, Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator from the [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#), visited the HONU site and discussed the program with key collaborators
 - [Inflatable structures unveiled to handle homelessness issues](#), Star Advertiser (12/12/19)
 - [HONU FAQ](#) (12/2/19)
 - [HONU has hope for the homeless](#), Star Advertiser (10/23/19)
 - [Pop-up shelters](#), Star Advertiser, 10/20/19
- On Nov. 26, Mayor Caldwell announced Hale Mauiola's new self-contained sewer system and grey water garden. The 5,000-square-foot project utilizes 1,500-2,000 gallons of grey water monthly and lowers sewer operation costs to around \$5,000 monthly. The project has a positive impact on the environment and our homeless clients who reside at Hale Mauiola.
- The [City Department of Community Services](#) released the name of the provider for its new Landlord Engagement Program: [Partners in Care \(PIC\)](#). This program is intended to create a link between landlords with vacant units and households experiencing homelessness and at risk of become homeless. Landlord incentives and supports are funded, as well as support for direct assistance to clients in finding appropriate housing and preventing evictions. More information is available at [Partners in Care's Landlord Engagement Program \(LEP\)](#) webpage.



Working Together throughout O'ahu

- At the annual Statewide Homeless Awareness Conference (Nov. 15), we released our new pamphlet, "[Addressing Homelessness Together](#)." We distributed copies widely, including to our city council, state legislature, and congressional delegation. Please feel free to download, print, and share the pamphlet. You may also contact us at 808.768.4675 or officeofhousing@honolulu.gov to pick up copies.
- Members of the Honolulu [Mayors Challenge](#) team – dedicated to ending veteran homelessness – attended the [Community Solutions Built for Zero](#) Learning Session in Denver, Oct. 21-23. One of our strategies is to target chronically homeless veterans (125 as of December 9th), and use more frequent and focused case management to move them more quickly into permanent housing.
- Mayor Kirk Caldwell requested Honolulu Hale be illuminated in the color purple from the evening of Thursday, Nov. 21 through Sunday, Nov. 24 [in recognition of Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week](#). Laura Thielen, executive director of Partners in Care, remarked, "Every person who is experiencing homelessness has a story, and as the lights at Honolulu Hale turn purple to remind us of the thousands among us who go to sleep on our streets, please consider how you as an individual can respond to the crisis."

- The Office of Housing's (HOU) first AmeriCorps [VISTA](#), Ramon Meraz, successfully completed his service in November. We are very grateful to him and his positive impact in several areas, including outreach to the LGBTQ+ community. For the first time HOU, under the leadership of VISTA Ramon Meraz, organized with PIC and [Residential Youth Services & Empowerment](#) (RYSE) to march in the 2019 [Honolulu Pride Parade](#) (Oct. 19). We also debuted the official O'ahu 2020 Census logo with our tagline, Everybody Counts.
- On Dec. 9, HOU welcomed our new VISTA, Ryan Beckley, who is originally from Atlanta, GA. His work during the next year will focus on communications strategy, including community engagement. Welcome aboard Ryan!
- PIC has been busy planning, coordinating, and gearing up for the upcoming [2020 Homeless Point-in-Time Count](#) (HPITC)! O'ahu will be counting on January 23, 2020 between the hours of 4:00 am and 11:00 am, asking where individuals slept on the night of January 22, 2020. We will be going digital this year by using a mobile app (Survey123 for ArcGIS) to complete and submit all surveys. These changes seek to improve the accuracy of the count and the timeliness of the reports. HOU will be collecting donations on behalf of city offices.
- With the help of various organizations, coordinators, and services providers, HELP (Health, Efficiency, Long-Term, Partnerships) Honolulu has taken 240 individuals to shelter in 2019.



Measuring, Learning, and Sharing

- The [City Housing First Year 4 Evaluation Report: Examining client, community, & societal impacts of Housing First on Oahu](#) (2019) is now available online. **Main conclusion: After four years, 84% of Housing First clients have not returned to homelessness.**
- One of the gurus of homelessness, Iain De Jong, has just published his book, [The Book on Ending Homelessness](#). This is a must read for everyone seeking to address homelessness in their community.
- The Mayor's Office of Housing continues to utilize social media through [Instagram](#) and our [YouTube Channel](#), in addition to our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) presence. Our website, www.honolulu.gov/housing, is our main portal for up-to-date information on affordable housing and homelessness for Honolulu. New videos include:
 - [Homelessness on O'ahu: How the community can help those in need by working with service providers](#) (11/7/19)
 - [Conversation on Outreach Navigation Program with Dr. Chad Koyanagi and Connie Mitchell](#) (11/4/19)
 - [Mayor Caldwell's Cabinet Work Day at Kahauiki Village](#) (10/2/19)
- Our [Honolulu Dashboard](#) was updated with October and November data. On homelessness and housing see:

